

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to the documents listed on the enclosed PTO-1449 form.

The listed information was cited in the parent of the present divisional application, Application No. 09/170,653, and might be deemed pertinent for the reasons given there. The Examiner is respectfully directed to the files of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office for review of those documents. (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d) and MPEP § 609.) Additionally, the Examiner is requested to indicate that the listed information has been considered by initialing the appropriate portions of the enclosed PTO-1449 form and returning a copy of same to Applicants' attorneys of record.

Note that U.S. Patent No. 6,477,570 was cited as a co-pending application in an Information Disclosure Statement filed in the parent of the present application. Because the cited application has now issued, a copy of the issued patent is enclosed.

The Examiner's attention is also directed to the following U.S. applications:

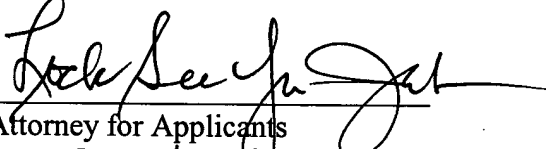
| <u>APPLICATION NO.</u> | <u>FILING DATE</u> | <u>GROUP ART UNIT</u> |
|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 08/999,140 | December 29, 1997 | 2622 |
| 09/178,896 | October 27, 1998 | 2622 |

A copy of each cited U.S. application, as originally filed, is enclosed.

CONCLUSION

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicants
Lock See Yu - JAHWES
Registration No. 38,667

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

NY_MAIN 367163v1

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| FORM PTO 1449 (modified) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary) | | | | ATTY DOCKET NO. 03500.013007.1 | | APPLICATION NO. Div. of 09/170,653 | |
| | | | | APPLICANT SURESH JAYACHANDRAN ET AL. | | | |
| | | | | FILING DATE Concurrently H r with | | GROUP 2624 | |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--|--------------------|----------------|------------------------|------------|------------|-------------------------------|
| *EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
| | | 6,477,570 | 11/2002 | Takayama et al. | 709 | 224 | |
| | | 6,126,265 | 10/2000 | Childers | 347 | 23 | |
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| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|--------------------|----------------|--------------|-------|----------|---------------------------------------|
| | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT |
| | | 11-134126 | 05/1999 | Japan | | | |
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| OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) | | |
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| EXAMINER | DATE CONSIDERED |
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Sheet 1 of 1